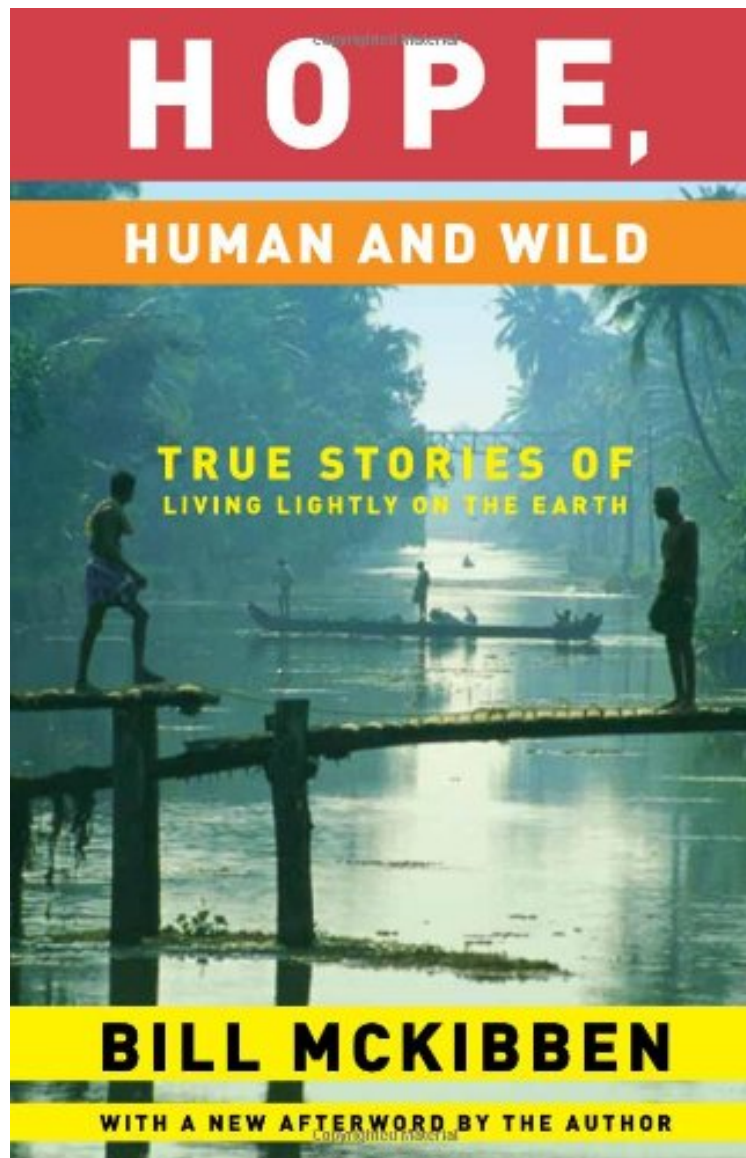


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Hope, Human and Wild: True Stories of Living Lightly on the Earth (The World As Home)

Bill McKibben

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before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hope, Human and
Wild: True Stories of Living Lightly on the Earth (The World As Home):

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Another Thoughtful Book By Bill McKibben By Barron Laycock In a time when many people finally accept the fact of global warming and of continuing human assault on the environment, Bill McKibben has launched this wonderfully written, inspiring, and informative book, another in his continuing series of important essays on the complex relationship between humankind and the planet we inhabit. McKibben, a former writer for The Atlantic Monthly magazine, transplanted himself and his small family in the Adirondack region of upstate New York in the late 1980s, from whence he has come once more to deliver a healthy dollop of insight, whimsy, and wisdom concerning the way we continue to walk not so lightly on the earth. Like most environmentalists, McKibben is deeply concerned about the continuing onslaught on the skin of the planet, and about our continuing disregard for the welfare of everything within the natural environment we most depend upon to have a continuing quality of life. Yet he is also propelled by aspects of his own experience with the ecology of his local area to set off on what he terms to be an exploration of hope, in the sense that he was searching for examples of recovery and progress in the natural landscape. One wonderful example he uses is that of the recovery of the amount of land reforested since the signal journey of one Timothy White, who in traveling in the early 1800s found very little land not cut and turned to the plow. Yet some two hundred years later, much of the Northeast forest is once again covering the landscape, and all of this in spite of the vastly increased population over the landmass in question. Of course, as McKibben admits, much of the reforestation took place based on the gradual abandonment of the lands of the Northeast in the so-called western migration as we fulfilled our "Manifest Destiny", and this migration also spelled further deforestation efforts in those areas under active migration. Once again, part of the genius of the natural environmental processes can be viewed in such a way, requiring not so much in the way of human intervention as in a kind of purposeful benign neglect (my own hackneyed term, not McKibben's). Left alone long enough, natural processes are underway that are restoring the Northeast forests to their primordial glory. And, like McKibben, I wonder at the good fortune some of us have to live in relatively sparsely developed and populated areas, where we can enjoy nature on a more personal level, where deer and bear and moose and all sorts of birds are free to live and roam. I sit in wonder with my friends the Labradors and watch, enraptured as the geese soar noisily above me this time every year.... Moreover, one must share his frustration and sadness at the prospect of such massive forces denuding and despoiling the ecosystems even as we read and write. While he offers some reasons for hope, the truth may be that things will have to become much worse for human beings to begin to act more responsibly in following his advice to find many more ways to walk more lightly on the earth. It is imperative for those of us who understand the magnitude of the dangers confronting us to continue to try to inform others, while also preparing to gradually break our own bonds to this culture of waste and wanton destruction. This book is more fuel for our own sustenance as we begin the long journey back to what Joni Mitchell once called "the garden". See you there! Enjoy!

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Up from poverty By James Ferguson Bill McKibben offers a more hopeful set of scenarios in this book, pointing to cities like Curitiba and regions like Kerala as examples of how communities can achieve sustainability and raise standards of living without big money projects. Closer to home, McKibben shows how forests are being regenerated in the Northeast allowing wolves, moose and other wild species to re-inhabit this region. But, something seemed to be missing in this volume. It lacked the focus of *The End of Nature* and didn't seem to go very far beyond surface observations. Nonetheless, I am thankful to McKibben for drawing attention to Curitiba and Kerala, showing that in many ways the so-called Third World has achieved greater sustainability than many parts of the so-called First World, leading him to make the salient observation that maybe we should re-examine our priorities here in the United States.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. WAKE UP CALL By Kindle Customer I can't say that I have ever read a book by McKibben that I don't like. HOPE is all we have left... unless people stop fussing over what expensive ring to buy, and start realizing that this universe is in TROUBLE and THEY are the one's that can fix it!

Divided into three sections, *Hope*, *Human* and *Wild* profiles the efforts of three caring communities to preserve wilderness and reverse environmental devastation. They include the reforestation of McKibben's home territory, New York's Adirondack Mountains; solving traffic and pollution problems in the densely populated Curitiba, Brazil; and how the citizens of Kerala, India have demonstrated that quality of life doesn't depend on overconsumption of resources. This edition features a new introduction that revisits these places and explores how they've changed over the years.

From Publishers Weekly Essays on successful collaborations between man and Mother Nature from the New Yorker staff writer who wrote the bestselling *The End of Nature*. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal McKibben, an accomplished and popular ecological author, here joins other nature writers expressing a cautious optimism about the possibility of saving the global environment from further devastation. Close to home, McKibben writes of the wildlife returning to upstate New York and New England. In Curitiba, Brazil, he finds an urban planner who has designed a city that works on a human scale, caring for the less fortunate while providing the means for commerce to flourish. And in Kerala, India, he tells of a state that has made enormous progress with a per capita income 1/17th the American average. McKibben concludes by calling for a new local politics, coupled with

devolution of the global economy. Tantalizing, infuriating, and intelligent, this book is recommended for popular collections.--Randy Dykhuis, OHIONET, Columbus, OhioCopyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.